

APR 24 2007

U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/625,824

REMARKSI. The Telephone Interview on April 23, 2007

In the telephone interview with the Examiner on April 23, 2007, the Examiner agreed that the present amendments to pending independent claims 1, 9, 26, 31, 35 and 36 will overcome the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections based on U.S. Patent No. 6,360,168 to Shimabara ("SHIMABARA"). The amended claims are supported by at least page 15, lines 7-22, of the Specification.

II. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections Regarding Dependent Claims

Various combinations of dependent claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over SHIMABARA in view of one or more other patents/references. Based on the foregoing regarding the independent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the §103 rejections of the dependent claims are now moot and these claims are in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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